mencement of DPCO, 1987 have taken place in 20-21% cases of non-scheduled formulations.

(c) to (g) Such details are not monitored.

PAC recommendations on production and price of drugs

2072. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the PAC recommendation to closely monitor production and prices of drugs and intermediates subjected to duty concession have been ignored; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. As stated in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 245 answered on 13-5-1993, the recommendations contained in the 5th report of the Public Accounts Committee 10th Lok Sabha (1991-92) regarding monitoring of customs duty concessions, are general in nature and not specific to drugs. It is reported that the Ministry of Finance has already furnished an action taken note the on said recommendations of the Committee.

Production of Acetic Anhydride

2073. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a notification has been made to monitor and control the production of Acetic Anhydride;

(b) whether large quantities of this chemical have been going to Pakistan and Myanmaar;

(c) the estimated amount of the chemical produced in the country;

(d) whether Acetic Anhydride is used for other purposes besides conversion of opium into heroin; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are no exports of Acetic Anhydride to Pakistan and Myanmaar.

(c) The estimated production of Acetic Anhydride during 1992-93 is 32,600 MT.

(d) and (e) Acetic Anhydride is used in the manufacture of Acetyl Compounds, Cellulose Acetates etc. It is a commonly used acetulizer and solvent. It is widely used in organic synthesis as a dehydrating agent in nitration, sulphonation and other reactions.

DAP plants in the country

2074. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of DAP plants in the country and their location;

(b) the quantity of DAP produced indigenously;

(c) what are the annual requirement of DAP in the country; and

(d) by which year the country would become self-sufficient in DAP ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) There are 10 DAP plants in the country. The name of these plants alongwith their locations are as follows :—

(i) Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Ltd., Kandla (Gujarat).

(ii) Gujarat State Fertilizers Company Ltd., Baroda (Gujarat).

(iii) Gujarat State Fertilizers Company Ltd., Sikka (Gujarat).

(iv) Zuari Agro Chemicals Ltd., Goa.

(v) Godavari Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd., Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh).

(vi) Mangalore Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd., Mangalore (Karnataka).

(vii) Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation, Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu).

(viii) Paradeep Phosphates Ltd., Paradeep (Orissa).

(ix) Hindustan Lever Ltd., Haldia (West Bengal).

(x) Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd., Cochin (Kerala).

(b) Production of DAP in the country during the last 3 years has been as under :—

(in lakh tonnes)

Year	Quantity
1990-91	19.05
1991-92	28.65
1992-93	25.95

(c) The requirement of DAP varies from year to year and ranges between 40—45 lakh tonnes per annum.

(d) In view of the paucity of adequate good quality reserve of rock phosphate in the country and in view of the paucity of elemental sulphur, the gap in the requirement of DAP has to be met through imports.

VAM Organic Chemicals Limited

2075. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of chemicals and chemicals products used by the Vam Organic Chemicals Limited situated at Bhartiya Gram, Gajrola, Moradabad district in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the chemicals used are hazardous and injurious to health; and

(c) if so, what precautions have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The major chemicals being used by M/s. Vam Organics & Chemicals Ltd. in their products are Ammonia, Formaldehyde, Dibutyl Maleate, Dibutyl Puhthalate and Vinyl ester of Vesalic Acid;

(b) The Chemicals are not listed as hazardous chemicals in the notification dated 25-7-1991 issued by Deptt. of Industrial Development.

(c) Does not arise.

Handing over of Fertiliser Plants to Private Sector

2076. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a policy decision to hand over some fertiliser plants to private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of expenditure so far incurred on these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Prices of Life-Saving Drugs

2077. SHRI GURDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drug companies are charging high prices for life-saving drugs and the prices have increased enormously during the past one year;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted into this matter;

(c) if so, the names of such companies and the products for which the prices have been raised exorbitantly; and

(d) what action has been taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) Price increases in cases of formulations under price control are regulated through the provisions of the DPCO '87 and violations, if any, as and when noticed are dealt with under the said provisions.

Prices of Chloramphenicol

2078. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAJIN:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the prices of Chloramphenicol salts on which formulation prices are based at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that the price of L-Base has come down from $ 45 per kg to $ 25 per kg; and

(c) what steps have been taken to reduce the prices of Chloramphenicol salts formulations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Notified price of Chloramphenicol is taken into consideration for price fixation/revision of Chloramphenicol based formulations.

(b) Recently, it has come to the notice of the Government that c.i.f. price of L-Base has come down.

(c) Necessary steps are being taken in this respect.